Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 313412 ORIGIN FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 L-03 CPR-01 /018 R

DRAFTED BY FAA/AIA:DMOORE:JO APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:SCKEITER ARA/AND:TWSONANDRES (SUBS) EB/AVP:JKGORDON

-----310834Z 035315 /14

R 301830Z DEC 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, VE

SUBJECT: FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REF : (A) CARACAS 13359; (B) STATE 297850

1. WHEN FAA ASSIGNED FIRST OF FIVE ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS TO VENEZUELA ON A 90 DAY TDY BASIS (SEPTEMBER 19), IT DID SO IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED GOV URGENT REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ASSURANCE THAT FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE FOR THESE SERVICES AND UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROPOSED MOA WOULD BE CONSUMMATED PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF THE 90 DAY PERIOD. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, TWO ENGINEERS, ONE OF WHOM WAS TEAM CHIEF TILLMAN, COMPLETED THEIR 90 DAY TDY ASSIGNMENT AND ARE NOW BACK IN U.S. A THIRD WAS RETURNED TO HOME STATION DUE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS. AS OF TODAY, MOA STILL NOT SIGNED AND UNLIKELY IT WILL BE UNTIL MIDJANUARY--EVEN THAT DATE IS CONJECTURAL.

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PAGE 02 STATE 313412

2. PURPOSE OF INCLUDING TDY PHASE WITHIN AGREEMENT WAS TO

(A) FACILITATE PLACING PERSONNEL IN-COUNTRY IN MINIMUM TIME WHILE MOBILIZATION PROCESS UNDERWAY.

- (B) ASSURE CONTINUITY OF SERVICES DURING TRANSITION FROM TDY TO PERMANENT PHASE.
- (C) ALLOW FAA TO BACKFILL POSITIONS VACATED BY PERSONNEL SELECTED TO BE MEMBERS OF PERMANENT CAAG TEAM.

AS SITUATION STANDS NOW, LINK BETWEEN TDY AND PERMANENT PHASES IS BROKEN. FAA MANAGEMENT RELUCTANT PLACE ADDITIONAL SPECIALISTS ON TDY DUE HEAVY WORKLOAD DEMANDS ON ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR SUCH ASSIGNMENTS. THE ONLY IMMEDIATE RESOLUTION OF FAA'S MANPOWER PROBLEM WOULD BE IMMEDIATE CONSUMMATION OF AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD ALSO ALLOW PUT PROJECT BACK ON TRACK AS ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED AND FULFILL OBJECTIONS REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 A, B, AND C ABOVE.

3. BASED ON FOREGOING, FAA DOES NOT PLAN FURTHER TDY ASSIGNMENTS UNTIL AGREEMENT SIGNED. FAA WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. ROBINSON

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